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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

No. 1327

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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

ENRICHING NUTRITIVE CONTENT OF FEED IN BELORUSSIAN SSR

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Feb 82 p 3

/Article by D. Aldushin, deputy chief of the Administration of Feed, Meadows and Pastures of the Ministry of Agriculture for the Belorussian SSR and A. Yakovlev: "A Maximum Return From Each Kilogram of Feed"/

/Excerpt/ A political information specialist must devote a maximum amount of attention to the manner in which feed is utilized and whether or not it is prepared correctly for feeding to the animals. Every attempt must be made to ensure that each kilogram of feed produces a maximum amount of return. In holding discussions with farm workers, the task of political information specialists consists of developing in them a thrifty attitude towards forage and the ability to determine correctly its nutritional qualities.

Today, with feed laboratories in operation in an overwhelming majority of the rayons, it is possible to obtain constant information on the nutritional value of the feed being employed on the farms. This makes it possible for each livestock breeder to remain apprised of the value of the feed, a factor which is of great importance in daily work. Indeed, one of the chief factors for achieving growth in the production of animal husbandry products, while keeping their production costs low, is that of supplying the agricultural animals with rich feed that is well balanced in terms of nutrients and energy.

It is known that the quality indicators for feed decrease sharply during storage of the feed. Thus the livestock breeders must concentrate their attention on the complete edibility of the forage being supplied to the animals and on improving the taste qualities of the feed in the daily ration by means of preliminary mincing, milling of the feed with subsequent preparation of feed mixtures, enriching the feed with malt concentrates, molasses syrup, saccharin, fodder hydrolytic sugar, pulp residue, malt residue, mash and paste obtained from root crops.

The simplest method for preparing all types of feed for feeding to animals -- is that of mincing the feed, mixing it well and feeding it in the form of multi-component feed mixtures. This will make it possible to raise the effectiveness of the feed by 12-14 percent. This operation can be carried out in feed preparation shops, feed kitchens and in an emergency -- manually.

The thermal processing of straw that has been moistened with a solution of soda ash raises the digestibility of cellulose from 45 to 70 percent and the nutritional value of the straw to 0.5 feed units, that is, it increases it by twofold and places it on a par with the nutritional value of good hay.

But this can be achieved only if the thermal processing technology is observed in a very strict manner. For example, if there is an excessive amount of sour silage the processing must be carried out using ammonia liquor.

For young stock, more extensive use must be made of hay infusion and decoctions obtained from flax, barley and oats, mash and paste must be prepared and concentrates malted. For the production of feed mixtures and mixed feed, the grain should be milled well. Fine milling is the best type, since it raises considerably the digestibility of the nutrients. Even under conditions involving an insufficient level of feeding, the feed unit must be rich, balanced, saturated with protein, calcium, phosphorus, carbohydrates and vitamins and a proper ratio of these susbstances must be maintained. In the case of ruminant animals, importance is attached to maintaining a normal sugar-protein ratio in the ration. There must be 100-150 grams of sugar for each feed unit of a ration.

This is especially important for a silage type of feeding and also when use is made of pulp residue, malt residue or mash, since these feeds contain practically no soluble sugars whatsoever. For the purpose of balancing the sugar-protein ratio in a livestock ration, root crops or fodder molasses are included or malting of the feed is carried out.

The livestock breeders must be well aware that the chief substances in the arsenal of mineral and synthetic materials are -- fodder salt, fodder phosphates and nitrogen-containing additives. The absence of or irregular feeding of these substances leads to a great shortfall in output and to a lowering of the fat content in milk. Fodder salt, for example, must constantly be available in special feeding troughs and the animals allowed free access to it. Fodder phosphates, carbamide and diammonium phosphate must be supplied on a regular basis to the animals, in accordance with the norms, in feed mixtures or as briquettes or granules.

Considerable importance is attached to ensuring that the feeding of cows is carried out on each farm on a differentiated basis, depending upon the milk yields and the physiological condition of the animals. A great amount of attention should be given to the feeding of dry cows. The livestock breeders must remember that during subsequent lactation, the milk yields of cows which were well prepared for calving increase sharply.

Unfortunately, feed is still not being consumed in a thrifty manner in all areas, nor is the greatest effect being realized from each kilogram of feed. Quite often the technology for preparing the feed for feeding to the animals is not being followed. On a majority of the farms of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Kamenetskiy, Dubrovenskiy, Gantsevichskiy, Lyubanskiy and other rayons, for example, the preparation of feed has not been organized. As a rule, straw is fed here in the absence of preliminary mincing, steaming or mixing with other feeds, nor has the malting of concentrated feeds been organized. In the face of this, it is hardly reasonable to expect to obtain high milk yields or to fulfill successfully the plans for producing and selling milk and meat to the state.

In their discussions with livestock breeders, the political information specialists must devote serious attention to creating a reliable microclimate in the livestock facilities. The maintenance of livestock in clean, dry, warm and always well ventilated facilities constitutes a great reserve for increasing the production of animal husbandry products and improving the quality of these products. It must also be borne in mind that the edibility of feed is greatly dependent upon the livestock being supplied with water. In some areas, proper attention is not being given to this requirement. Here is an example: at the Krasnyy Oktyabr' Kolkhoz in Berestovitskiy Rayon, a water tower on one of the farms was inactive for 2 weeks. Certainly, water was brought in for the animals, but they were not able to drink it to their heart's content. This had an immediate effect on productivity, despite the fact that the animals continued to receive the same feed as always.

The most important task of the day is that of skilfully utilizing each kilogram of feed and obtaining the greatest return from it. The solving of this task will make it possible to intensify the production volumes for farm output and to carry out successfully the livestock wintering operations.

7026
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LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

USE OF WHEAT FOR LIVESTOCK FEED DECRIED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Mar 82 p 2

/Article by A. Sozinov, academician of VASKhNIL and Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian SSR and F. Poperelya and A. Khokhlov, candidates of agricultural sciences: "The Wheat Fields: How Should They Be Used?"/

/Text/ It has long been known that wheat is the principal food crop. Bread, macaroni, vermicelli, groats and many other food products are obtained from its grain. In terms of the area sown in wheat and its proportion in the country's grain balance, it occupies a leading position and during the past few years wheat has become a leader in the world's gross yield of grain, overtaking rice in the process. Nor was this a random happening.

The principal reason for this development lies in the fact that a wheat plant has a very high biological potential. By no means has full use been made of the opportunities available for carrying out breeding improvements in this cereal grain. Over the past 20-25 years, the potential productivity of new varieties has practically doubled and surpassed the 100 quintal point for cropping power. These extensive and suitable opportunities are making it possible to cultivate wheat from the equator to the Arctic Circle.

Taking into account the biological characteristics and the prospects for improving them, with the aid of modern plant breeding operations, it can be stated that wheat sowings will occupy a leading position on the country's grain fields in the foreseeable future. But a question comes to mind: how is this grain being utilized? Beyond any doubt, the principal portion of this grain is being used for the production of food products and particularly bread and baking products. It is also known that certain problems exist in this area: insufficient grain production from strong and durum wheats and reductions in the protein and gluten content.

For example, it has been established that grain containing no less than 25 percent gluten is required in order to obtain normal bread. However, it is not always possible to procure such grain. Thus, although during the pre-war years the grain in the southern Ukraine usually contained up to 35 percent gluten, since the beginning of the 1960's this indicator has fallen sharply, with a considerable mass of the crop containing only 20-22 percent gluten. What has happened? In actual practice, a close link is being observed between the cropping power and grain quality. This link is inversely proportional: the higher the yields -- the smaller the gluten content. During the pre-war years, 12-15 quintals of wheat were obtained per hectare and the protein content in the grain was approximately 15 percent. Today however, despite the fact that the yields have been increased to 30 quintals, the protein content has nevertheless fallen to 11-12 percent.

The essence of this phenomenon, if we pass over the details, is as follows. For a 15 quintal yield and a grain protein content equal to 15 percent, the plants "withdrew" approximately 45 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare. Today, for a 30 quintal yield, roughly 100 kilograms of nitrogen must be withdrawn per hectare in order to obtain grain containing 15 percent protein. Practically speaking, only 30-50 kilograms of nitrogen are being returned to the soil in the form of organic and mineral fertilizers. The nitrogen deficit is restraining growth in the cropping power and adversely affecting the quality of the grain.

It should also be noted that a portion of the wheat grain loses its quality owing to damage caused by the shield bug, frosts, untimely harvesting operations, poor storage and so forth. In short, many unsolved problems still persist in the sphere of wheat bread grain production. Science and practical experience know how to solve these problems and a great amount of work is being carried out in this regard. For example, it is enough to refer to the experience accumulated in intensifying the production of strong wheats by grain growers in Krasnodarskiy Kray, Stavropol'skiy Kray and in northern Kazakhstan.

Domestic plant breeding has provided agricultural production with a broad spectrum of varieties, which are distinguished by an inherited capability to form high quality grain under optimum conditions. Over the past few years, a large group of new, more productive and high quality varieties of soft and durum and spring and winter wheats has been created. A new Parus variety of winter durum wheat has been obtained at the All-Union Plant Breeding Genetics Institute (city of Odessa) which, in terms of its cropping power, is not inferior to the soft wheats. It has already been regionalized in Odesskaya and Khersonskaya Oblasts and it is considered to hold promise for Krymskaya and Nikolayevskaya Oblast in the Ukraine. In all probability, this will make it possible to create a new grain production zone for the macaroni industry.

However, less than one half of the wheat being grown is being used for food purposes. Tens of millions of tons are being used for forage. Analysis reveals that no reduction is expected in the future in the consumption of wheat for forage purposes.

Thus, we wish to emphasize that tens of millions of tons of wheat are being used annually for the production of animal husbandry products. But wheat is a grain crop. Over a period of many centuries public plant breeding, and during the past century scientific plant breeding, have been directed towards obtaining elastic and stable gluten, the flour of which can be used for baking light and porous bread.

But such gluten is not required in wheat that is used for livestock feed. Moreover, animals are better able to assimilate grain having a weak gluten content. Another unnecessary and even harmful characteristic for feed wheat is that of grain hardness, which ensures a high yield of white flour and high quality semolina. Nevertheless, the country's wheat fields are being sown almost completely in strong or valuable wheat strains. Even in the nonchernozem regions of the RSFSR, the northern Ukraine and Belorussia, where it is definitely known that good grain for baking purposes cannot be obtained owing to natural-climatic factors and where a large portion of the crop is intended to be used for forage purposes, considerable areas are being sown in strong wheat varieties. This will cause the national economy to sustain noticeable losses.

It is completely obvious that the time is at hand for altering the view that wheat is only a food crop -- modern agriculture requires special feed or grain forage wheat varieties. Feed wheat must become a fully accepted crop within both the planning system and the management mechanism.

What will this accomplish? First of all, it will simplify considerably the breeding of plants for productivity and resistance against unfavorable factors. It is appropriate to cite the following example. Let us say that highly productive forms constitute only five perent of the initial material used for creating a new variety. But, of this five percent, only a few specimens meet the requirements for strong wheats. Under such conditions, a plant breeder can continue work with only one half percent of the tested forms. If one takes into account the fact that the selection is carried out simultaneously not only on the basis of these two characteristics but with tens of others also being considered, then the complicated nature of the plant breeding task becomes obvious.

Let us look in upon still another problem having to do with complicated and as yet unexplained questions -- the relationship between grain cropping power and protein content. A great amount of effort is required in order to overcome this problem. The data which we obtained makes it possible to suggest that it is easier to "disrupt" this relationship during the breeding of feed wheat. Thus the Odesskaya-zernofurazhnaya feed wheat variety created at the institute as a result of theoretical research studies, during a period of 3 years devoted to comparing it against all soft wheat varieties then undergoing strain testing, furnished a maximum yield and at the same time surpassed all other varieties in terms of protein content. Compared to Bezostaya-1, the protein yield per unit of area turned out to be 25-28 percent higher.

The breeding of wheat for forage purposes possesses a number of other extremely important advantages. The opportunities for employing interspecific hybridization are expanded considerably, the probability of combining various characteristics in one variety increases and fine prospects become available for improving the feed qualities of grain. Moreover, a new approach can be employed for the territorial placement of plant breeding programs. It is hardly advisable to carry out the large-scale breeding of food wheat, for example, in the nonchernozem zone. Here it is more appropriate to launch a program for the creation of grain forage wheats and also grain forage Tritikal -- a new variety created on the basis of hybridization of cultivated forms of wheat and rye.

Arguments are still being heard today as to whether it is worth while making a fuss over this matter. Would it not be simpler to expand the sowings of feed grasses? Let us examine this question. Nobody negates the fact that wheat is a valuable feed for large-horned cattle and especially poultry. A number of specialists consider barley and corn to be more preferable for pig farming. They are entirely correct if they have in mind pure grain -- the weight increases for wheat are low, since the edibility is worse. In the process, wheat turns out to be a leader in turns of return per unit of feed, since the protein content of its grain is greater.

However, there is no sense in arguing this point. The modern principles of feeding, which are based upon balanced mixed feeds, continue to undergo further development throughout the country. Thus, scientific data reveals that mixed feed obtained on the basis of wheat furnishes higher results during the fattening of swine -- in terms of weight increases, return realized from the feed and, finally, the quality of the product. At the same time, wheat, and especially winter wheat, in many rayons, surpasses all grain crops including barley in terms of productivity if one takes into account the fact that approximately 10 percent of its yield consists of hulls which are not assimilated by the animals.

The launching of specialized plant breeding programs for the creation of highly productive varieties of wheat for animal husbandry will promote maximum utilization of the biological potential of this cereal grain. It will become an accepted component for mixed feeds and the chief criterion for determining its quality will be the protein content level of the grain -- a very important indicator for animal husbandry. Express methods for determining this indicator have already been developed.

At the same time, work directed towards breeding barley and corn for a raised lysine content and for improvements in the feed qualities must be intensified considerably. Extensive plant breeding programs were launched with these goals in mind in the early 1970's. But owing to insufficient theoretical preparation and the absence of reliable methods for obtaining valuable genotypes, they were either eliminated entirely or sharply curtailed at a majority of the plant breeding centers. An acceleration should also take place in the work aimed at finding effective technologies for obtaining, either biologically or chemically, an amino acid such as lysine, the addition of which to mixed feed having a high grain content will raise its biological value.

In view of the climatic conditions found in our country, it is extremely difficult to solve the feed protein problem merely through the production of high protein crops, as is being done in the U.S.A. by means of soybeans. Thus an improvement in the structure of the grain component of mixed feed and raising its protein content is considered to be one of the best means for achieving the desired effect.

Specific steps are already being taken in this direction by the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, Glavmikrobioprom, VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/ and yet certain biased and obsolete views are delaying a solution for this problem.

The country's grain fields are great. And at the present time, with an all-round food program being developed in accordance with the decisions handed down during the 26th CPSU Congress, special importance is being attached to utilizing these fields, a priceless resource of our country, in a thrifty and proper manner.

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LIVESTOCK

IMPROVEMENTS IN CATTLE PROCUREMENT SYSTEM CALLED FOR

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 2, Feb 82 pp 8-12

/Article by V. Kozhevnikov, deputy chief of the Main Administration of Animal Husbandry of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture: "A Paradoxical Situation"/

/Text/ Among the more important problems associated with the interrelationships of branches of the agroindustrial complex, special importance is attached to carrying out improvements in the procurement system for cattle.

At the present time, the losses which take place in meat products while enroute from a farm to the freezer of a meat combine, where the carcasses of slaughtered animals are delivered, continue to be considerable. Moreover, they are caused mainly by imperfections in the system for the delivery and acceptance of cattle, by the absence of clearly defined criteria for evaluating the slaughtering qualities of animals and insufficient responsibility on the part of the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and meat combines with regard to conserving the products during all stages in the procurement and processing of the cattle.

At the present time, more than 90 percent of the meat industry enterprises are accepting cattle based upon weight and the quality of the meat.

In accordance with the existing system of relationships between kolkhozes and sovkhozes on the one hand and enterprises of the meat processing industry on the other, the farms are themselves obligated to ship the cattle for processing. The meat combine accepts responsibility for the cattle only after the carcasses have been delivered to the freezer compartments. Here the meat products are weighed and the receiving-delivery documents prepared. Such a system for accounting for the products lowers the interest of the meat industry technologists in obtaining as much output as possible from the slaughtered animals, eliminating losses in live weight and achieving improvements in the slaughtering methods and in the technology employed for processing the carcasses. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes do not suffer from such a system, since the workers who accompany the cattle to the meat combine are responsible only for the number of head. All losses in live weight in the cattle, during the period devoted to their transporting, sale and processing, are returned with interest by the coefficients for converting the meat obtained into live weight. It is precisely this weight that is credited to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes when fulfilling the state plan for cattle and poultry procurements. A situation has been created wherein almost no arguments arise between the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and meat combines when determining the weight and state of nourishment.

Moreover, at times it is advantageous to the farms for the cattle to be accepted at the meat combine at a lower state of nourishment, since the lower it is the higher the credited weight of the animals. Thus, based upon the norms for beef output, approved by Minmyasomolprom /Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry/ for young large-horned cattle stock in a high state of nourishment in the RSFSR, the coefficient for converting meat into live weight is 2.03, average state of nourishment -- 2.16 and lower than average -- 2.34. Thus, for example, if the slaughtering of an animal produces 200 kilograms of meat, then following a conversion using the coeficient for a high state of nourishment the live weight is 406 kilograms, average -- 432 and lower than average state of nourishment -- 468 kilograms. A paradoxical situation arises: the system for accepting the cattle is unprofitable for the state but profitable for the meat processing industry and the agricultural enterprises. Moreover, it is practically impossible to determine the true losses in meat products during the long run from the farm to a meat combine. With the introduction of the system for accepting cattle based upon weight and the quality of the meat, there no longer was a need for weighing the cattle prior to shipment from the farms or upon acceptance at the meat combine.

Meanwhile, numerous examples could be cited showing how considerable losses in products occurred here.

The Kolkhoz imeni Chuykov in Ural'skaya Oblast in the Kazakh SSR shipped 916 sheep, the overall weight of which was 459 quintals, to the Ural'skiy Meat Combine. While awaiting acceptance, the animals stood idle at the gates of the enterprise for almost 5 days and lost 58 quintals of live weight during this period. According to calculations by the farm's specialists, during the period of mass deliveries each sheep loses roughly one out of every ten kilograms of live weight during the transporting and delivery period.

At the Valuyki Meat Combine in Belgorodskaya Oblast, for each head of large-horned cattle received from the Valuyki Fattening Sovkhoz, an average of 12 kilograms of meat products was lost owing to unsatisfactory livestock maintenance conditions during the pre-slaughtering aging period.

In some areas the production base of the processing enterprises is lagging seriously behind the raw materials base of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. For example, many farms in Drozhzhanovskiy Rayon in the Tatarskaya ASSR are shipping cattle to the Sviyazhskiy Meat Combine, located at a distance of 200 kilometers. The vehicles are enroute for an entire day and from the moment they are shipped from the farms until they are accepted at the livestock base, a period of 20 hours, the cattle neither feed nor drink and they are held for more then 2 days before being slaughtered. This results in a loss in live weight of 9 kilograms per head of large-horned cattle and for swine -- 4 kilograms.

Several years ago a different system was employed for the delivery of cattle. The cattle were deilivered based upon their live weight and they were weighed twice -- on the farm and at the meat combine. The meat combine workers tried to avoid losses in the meat products through the timely processing of the animals and by achieving improvements in the slaughtering methods and processing technology. The losses in cattle live weight and in their state of nourishment were controlled by the norms for the output of meat and category I and II sub-products, established by USSR Minmyasomolprom. Derelictions in the work of the pre-slaughtering bases and the slaughtering department adversely affected the results of the production activities of the meat combines.

However, the acceptance of cattle according to live weight had substantial shortcomings. The principal one was imperfections in evaluating cattle according to their state of nourishment. The quality of cattle turned over for slaughtering and, it follows, the procurement price for them, are established in conformity with the existing standard (State Standard 5110-55 "Large-Horned Cattle for Slaughtering"). Unfortunately the GOST /State Standard/ suffers from one considerable shortcoming -- an imperfection in the system for evaluating the nutritional state of the cattle, which must be determined by inspecting the animals and probing their subcutaneous fat. A visual evaluation of the shape of the bodies, the degree of muscular development and the thickness of the subcutaneous fat led to the use of subjective approach for determining the quality of the animals delivered. No special difficulty was involved in distinguishing between well fattened animals and emaciated ones. However, arguments often developed between the suppliers and recipients of the cattle when determining the limits for a particular category.

In accordance with GOST 5110-55, differences which arise when determining the nutritional state of large-horned cattle are resolved by means of a controlled slaughtering. In the process, the categories of nutritional state are established based upon the quality of the meat obtained. This served as the basis for the change in the existing system for accepting cattle according to live weight and for converting over to evaluating the animals based upon weight and the quality of their meat. Since under the new system there is no longer a need for weighing the live animals supplied by the farms, the crediting of the meat, in fulfillment of the state plan for cattle and poultry procurements, is now carried out by converting the entire carcass of a slaughtered animal into live weight, using coefficients established based upon the actual meat yields obtained on the average during the 3 years preceeding the introduction of the innovation.

However, even now, in the computations for meat, a subjective approach for determining the state of nourishment of cattle is not excluded, since in this instance the quality of the product is established visually.

From an objective standpoint, it is practically impossible to establish a clear line between particular categories of cattle state of nutrition. In such cases, who supplies the final evaluation for meat quality? In essence, the supplier farms have been removed from having to solve this problem. Similar work is being performed entirely by workers attached to the meat combines.

Yes and is it possible for the kolkhoz and sovkhoz specialists to exercise control over the quantity and quality of the meat if 2-3 days are allowed to elapse from the moment the cattle are shipped from the farm to a meat combine until the carcasses of the slaughtered cattle are weighed? The majority of the agricultural specialists are well aware of how to establish the state of nourishment and with great accuracy and even to determine their live weight without weighing the animals. At the same time, they are not sufficiently familiar with the technology for processing the cattle or determining the quality of the meat, as a result of which their presence at a meat combine does not exert a substantial effect on the final evaluation of the animals.

It should also be noted that the instructions for the cattle processing technology were developed and approved only by USSR Minmyasomolprom, although the cattle suppliers, in the accounts for the meat, are certainly by no means indifferent to the technology for slaughtering and processing the animals or to the amount of meat obtained from them and thus participation in the preparation of this instruction by USSR Minsel'khoz would be useful, since it is called upon to protect the interests of the farms.

The system employed by the suppliers of cattle is not in operation. In the majority of oblasts and republics which converted over to the delivery and acceptance of cattle based upon weight and the quality of the meat, these individuals are being maintained at the meat combines at the expense of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. These specialists are obligated to observe the rules for the acceptance and processing of the cattle. At the same time, they bear no responsibility for protecting the products or for ensuring that the meat weighing work is carried out correctly.

Many agricultural specialists and also those attached to the meat processing industry and the procurement system are aware of the imperfections in the existing system of cattle deliveries and acceptances based upon weight and the quality of the meat. Several variants for improving this system have been proposed. Work is presently being carried out in all of the union republics in connection with examining the existing coefficients for converting the meat into live weight, with the goal being that of ensuring that they conform to the conditions of the cattle and to the meat yields obtained during their processing. However, as the preliminary results of this work have shown, the majority of specialists prefer to leave the existing coefficients unchanged or at most introduce only negligible changes in them.

The proposal by workers in the meat processing industry to reject the coefficients for converting meat into live weight and to convert over to planning state cattle procurements in dressed weight is hardly acceptable. And here is why. The sale of cattle to the state is one of the principal indicators assigned to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Based upon this indicator, the farms, in their production-financial plans, determine the volumes for the raising and fattening of cattle and for the sale of cattle for slaughtering purposes. If the state plan for cattle procurements is made available to the farms in dressed weight and production operations are planned in live weight, then it will be difficult to establish to what degree production ensures fulfillment of the procurement plan. Moreover, the accounting, reporting and wage systems presently in use at kolkhozes and sovkhozes are based upon the indicators for live weight in cattle. A change in the planning and accounting for cattle according to yield and the quality of the meat will also lead to considerable difficulties in the accounts for output and the expenditure of material and monetary resources for production operations and also in providing financing and credit for the animal husbandry branch.

With the conversion over to planning cattle procurements in dressed weight, the losses in meat output at meat combines will actually be legalized, since accounting for meat production at these enterprises commences at the moment that the carcasses are delivered to the freezer compartments. It was by no means an accident that the mentioned experiment in planning state procurements of livestock and poultry in dressed weight, on farms in the Estonian SSR and Latvian SSR, was not approved by the agricultural organs or by the kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders and specialists.

The proposed system, by means of which the cattle and poultry must be accepted directly at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes according to the number of head is not economically justified and the computations for the animals delivered are carried out following the slaughtering of the cattle and the determination at the meat combine of the quality and weight of the meat. The adoption of such a proposal would require a kolkhoz or sovkhoz to deliver cattle to a procurement specialist based upon "word of honor," not knowing in advance how much they will receive for the sale of the product.

What is the most economically justified method for accepting cattle for state procurements? A more simple and economically sound method is being proposed -- to evaluate the cattle according to their live weight and age. This method is based upon a large amount of experimental data, obtained by scientists when evaluating the meat qualities of slaughtered cattle. This data makes it possible to state that at a definite age the live weight of animals serves as the chief indicator for the quality of the meat. Such an evaluation for cattle is already in operation at the present time in individual regions of the country. Young bulls less than 2 years of age, the live weight of which is in excess of 300 kilograms, are paid for at the prices for cattle in a high state of nourishment, regardless of the deposits of subcutaneous fat. The quality of young stock less than 3 years of age and in raised weight conditions is evaluated in a similar manner. Thus, for young stock the live weight of which is 350-400 kilograms (in the republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus -- from 300 to 350 kilograms and in the Baltic -- from 370 to 420 kilograms), a bonus amounting to 35 percent of the procurement price is paid out and for young stock the live weight of which is more than 400 kilograms (350 and 420 kilograms respectively), the bonus is raised to 50 percent.

A considerable change in the quality of the slaughtered cattle available at enterprises of the meat processing industry serves as the basis for reviewing the existing standards. During the 1965-1980 period, the average weight for processed cattle increased by 93 kilograms or by 35 percent and the weight of a carcass increased by 50 kilograms or by 41 percent. During this same period, the proportion of young large-horned cattle stock in a high state of nourishment increased from 20 to 70 percent.

At the present time, new draft standards have been developed: "Large-Horned Cattle for Slaughtering" and "Meat. Beef and Veal." Live weight and carcass weight, which are objective indicators of the meat productivity of an animal, have been adopted as the principal criteria for evaluating young stock, which constitute approximately 70 percent of all large-horned cattle being slaughtered. The requirements with regard to the degree of fat deposits have in this instance been lowered. A production check on the draft standards has shown that an increase takes place in the carcass weight and dressing percentage and an improvement is noted in the meat content and state of nourishment as the live weight of the young stock increases. These regularities provide the basis for dividing the animals and carcasses into classes.

The draft standards are presently being completed and the plans call for them to conform to the standard for meat; this will make it possible to regulate the interrelationships between agriculture, the meat industry and trade.

The placing in operation of new standards will make it possible to create conditions for expanding considerably the acceptance of cattle directly at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, with the procurement specialists providing vehicles for transporting the animals. Over the past few years, a great amount of work has been carried out throughout the country in this regard. Specialization and concentration in animal husbandry are being carried out on an extensive scale at kolkhozes and sovkhozes and an expansion has taken place in the network of hard surface roads serving the farms. The material-technical base of the meat processing industry has been strengthened substantially. At the same time, the acceptance of cattle at kolkhozes and sovkhozes is being carried out in negligible volumes. In 1980, 2.3 million tons of cattle, or 15 percent of the overall amount being supplied by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, were transported by means of vehicles provided by the meat combines. To a certain extent, further expansion of the system for accepting cattle at the production sites is being restrained by the existing procedures for accepting cattle according to weight and the quality of the meat and by the absence of clear criteria for evaluating the animals.

In attaching importance to expanding the volumes of agricultural products, including cattle, accepted at the production sites, the CC CPSU and the USSR Council of Ministers, on 18 November 1980, adopted Decree No. 1032 entitled "Improvements in Planning and Economic Stimulation in the Production and Procurements of Agricultural Products," which established a system which obligates the USSR ministries and departments, those which carry out agricultural product procurements, to ensure that their plans call for these products to be procured directly on the farms.

The state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR calls for special motor transport resources to be made available for this purpose, capital investments for paying for the construction of garages and repair bases and other requirements associated with expanding the acceptance of agricultural products at their production sites.

The transfer of the functions of a cattle procurement specialist from the USSR Minsel'khoz /Ministry of Agriculture/ system to USSR Minmyasomolprom would promote an increase in state discipline.

At the present time, the procurement network, in terms of the volume of cattle procurements, is 70 percent subordinate to the USSR Minsel'khoz; it includes the fattening sovkhozes of seven union republics (RSFSR, Kazakh SSR, Uzbek SSR, Moldavian SSR, Kirghiz SSR, Tajik SSR and the Turkmen SSR). At the same time, approximately 80 percent of the cattle being delivered to the meat combines bypass the receiving points of agricultural enterprises. This derives from the fact that when measures are carried out in connection with inter-farm cooperation in the raising and fattening of cattle, changes take place in the functions of the procurement organizations of the USSR Minsel'khoz system. Today the fattening farms, having been extended the rights of procurement specialists, are being converted over to work based upon the principle of an inter-farm enterprise. In this manner, the necessary conditions are being created for concentrating the functions of cattle procurements within the USSR Minmyasomolprom system.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING APK ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 3, Mar 82 pp 11-19

/Article by G. Rudenko, chief of a department of USSR Gosplan and V. Miloserdov, deputy chief of a department of USSR Gosplan and corresponding member of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Science imeni V.I. Lenin: "Improvements in Administrative Mechanism in Agroindustrial Complex"/

/Text/ A typical feature of the present five-year plan was noted during the 26th CPSU Congress -- orientation towards excessive growth in the final national economic results, compared to an increase in labor and material expenditures, including capital investments. The work must be carried out in a manner such that the "production results increase more rapidly than the production expenditures and such that it will be possible to achieve more while drawing fewer resources into production operations. Planning and scientific-technical and structural policies must be subordinated to solving this task. The management methods and policies in the sphere of administration must operate in behalf of effectiveness"*. The above applies to all spheres of the national economy, including branches of the agroindustrial complex.

During this modern stage in economic development, production specialization and concentration are becoming more intense, new forms of production organization are being created, operations are being withdrawn from agriculture for the servicing of production and new ministries, departments, trusts and other forms of branch administration are being created. An increasingly greater portion of agricultural output is being subjected to industrial processing prior to being made available to the consumer. However, the changes taking place are not always accompanied by measures for improving the administrative mechanism and the new organizational formations are based upon outdated forms and methods for planning, stimulation and administration. This was one of the principal causes of the difference which developed between the rates of growth in fixed productive capital and the rate of growth for the production of agricultural products.

Today there are roughly 70 organizations of various types in the oblast engaged in providing services for agricultural production, procuring and processing products, directing inter-farm formations and so forth. They are subordinate to more than 20 ministries and departments. Such diversity adversely affects the utilization of production capabilities in associated branches of the APK /agroindustrial complex/, the development of the production and social infrastructure in the rural areas and the leveling off of the economic conditions of management. Large numbers of specialists are diverted from the sphere of production.

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* "Materialy XXVI s''yezda KPSS" /Materials of the 26th CPSU Congress/, Moscow, Politizdat, 1981, p 40.

Shortcomings in administration cannot be compensated by an increase in the number of workers or in capital investments. Considerable growth in the administrative apparatus, in the absence of radical changes in the forms, methods and its technical equipping, only aggravates the mistakes of the leaders and specialists and creates duplicate flows of information.

Owing to violations of the territorial principle of planning, the production structure of regional APK's is not formed on a sufficiently sound basis, the work of individual participants in the production of food goods is not clearly oriented towards achieving the final results and capital investments and logistical resources are distributed in the countryside among many individual channels. Each branch develops its own logistical base and production and social infrastructure on the spot and without the participation of related organizations. This leads to a situation wherein the disproportions at the oblast and rayon levels become more aggravated.

At the present time, there are several specialized subunits in each rayon performing similar type work. For example, logistical supply work is being carried out by branches of Goskomsel'khoztekhnika and by construction, land reclamation and other organizations; production and non-production construction work is being performed by mobile mechanized columns of Minsel'stroy /Ministry of Rural Construction/ trusts, by organizations of Mezhkolkhozstroy /Interkolkhoz Construction Organization/ and Meliovodstroy, by other construction organizations and also using the economic method. In each rayon there are 40-50 organizations providing services for agricultural production. These organizations have ample funds and manpower at their disposal. The majority of them were formed based upon kolkhoz and sovkhoz resources. The concentration of powerful specialized machines and equipment should have resulted in the more efficient carrying out of work associated with capital construction, technical services, fertilizer procurements and applications and the gradual release of kolkhozes and sovkhozes from having to perform these functions. But this did not occur. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes are continuing to carry out a definite portion of the mentioned work.

The specialized departments are spending a considerable portion of the resources obtained for agricultural development for purposes other than those originally intended. For example, only 27 percent (in terms of value) of the capability available at the Rossel'khoztekhnika Association for the repair and technical servicing of equipment is being employed to satisfy kolkhoz and sovkhoz orders. Enterprises and organizations in the sphere of services quite often direct their efforts towards realizing maximum profits at the expense of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Since their work is evaluated in terms of gross output in rubles, their interest in obtaining high final results is weak. As a rule, related organizations do not strive to obtain a great return from invested resources. The heavier the structures and the more expensive the materials used in the construction of installations, the easier it is to fulfill the plan. These are precisely the factors which have caused the cost of a livestock billet in the country (for all types of livestock and poultry) to increase by a factor of 4-5 over the past 15 years.

An evaluation of the work of branches which are related to agriculture from a "gross" standpoint, that is, according to the amount of resources expended and not taking into account the return from them, creates the appearance of efficient work in individual branches (it raises the desire to build costly animal husbandry complexes and to produce obsolete equipment, so as not to have to reorganize production and so forth).

Insufficient mastering of the mechanism for administering an agroindustrial complex and imperfections in the production-economic relationships between its branches at times can lead to a dispersion and irrational use of resources, a weakening of control over the carrying out of interbranch decisions, restrained rates of growth for the final product and an increase in its production cost and to a reduction in the efficiency of social production.

The partners of the farmers are only slightly interested in the final results of the production activity of an entire APK and they are not responsible for the harvest. In fulfilling and over-fulfilling their plans, they realize high profits even when the harvests are reduced at the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the production of meat, milk and other agricultural products is low.

A substantial shortcoming of planning is the breaking away from specific managerial conditions and orientation toward the achieved level. The reason for this lies in the fact that the production structure for the agriculture of an APK is being improved slowly. Industry must satisfy more completely the requirements of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes for mineral fertilizers, power machines and other material resources. Shortages in spare parts, machines for applying fertilizers, storehouses and enterprises for the processing of grain, potatoes and vegetables bring about considerable losses in the crops grown and reductions in the quality of the products. Experience in planning and administration does not make it possible to carry out timely changes in the interbranch proportions for production. "In addition to objective circumstances" stated L.I. Brezhnev, "we are also held back by the sluggish forces of inertia. Inertia in planning, in the managerial methods and perhaps most importanly -- in economic thought"[*].

At the present time, it is forbidden to have the planning for the sowing areas and number of livestock carried out at higher levels: the farms are being allowed to display great initiative in selecting the means and methods for carrying out their work in an efficient manner and for fulfilling and over-fulfilling their procurement plans. However, the territorial planning organs are continuing to impose recommendations upon the kolkhozes and sovkhozes which do not take into account the local conditions. The excessive regulation of the actions of rural leaders and specialists is restraining initiative and weakening responsibility and interest in searching for reserves and opportunities. During the November (1981) Plenum of the CC CPSU, L.I. Brezhnev stated: "It is for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes to decide what will be planted on a particular hectare and when the various operations will commence"[**].

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[*] L.I. Brezhnev. "Leninskim kursom" /Following Lenin's Course/, Volume 7, Moscow, Politizdat, 1979, p 619

[**] L.I. Brezhnev. Speech delivered before the Plenum of the CC CPSU on 16 November 1981. Moscow, Politizdat, 1981, p 6.

The above testifies to the fact that the mechanism for administration and planning and the managerial methods, which are based upon quantitative factors, have fallen behind the modern requirements and this is hampering the conversion of the APK branches over to the path of intensive development. The large scale changes in the productive forces in the rural areas dictate the need for reorganizing the style and methods of economic management and for implementing improvements in planning work and in all administrative functions. In particular, the formation of cost accounting agroindustrial associations which perform the functions of the principal primary element and which are responsible for the production and sale of the final product should be accelerated at the rayon level.

Over a period of many years and by way of an experiment, RAPO's /rayonnoye agropromyshlennoye ob'yedineniye; rayon agroindustrial association/ have been functioning in a very successful manner in a number of union republics. For the efficient management of the entire technological process associated with the production of food goods, extensive rights should ideally be extended to these organs of administration and conditions should be created for the purposeful solving of all interrelated economic and social tasks in a rayon. The concentration of material and human resources in such associations will make it possible to ensure the all-round development (by stages) of production specialization and concentration in all spheres of the APK and to create a single engineering-technical service, including a repair base for the farms and the enterprises of sel'khoztekhnika. It would then be possible, without any additional capabilities being introduced into operations, to ensure fully the repair and technical servicing of machines for all of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

When the work is organized in this manner, a rayon agroindustrial association becomes a primary administrative element for controlling the production of food goods and for resolving the principal operational problems. Thus the organizational-production structure of administration must be raised to higher levels of management in conformity with the structure for administering the agroindustrial complex of a rayon. Towards this end, agroindustrial associations should be created at the oblast level and at the union and republic levels -- all-union and republic state agroindustrial committees responsible for the proper use of the resources placed at their disposal and the production of food goods and [illegible] industry.

In addition to functional and functional-production main administrations (planning-economic, capital construction, finances, accounting, science and VUZ's, social development and so forth), the structure of a union-republic state committee must also include main administrations for the sub-complexes (grain products, fruit and vegetable, sugar beet, meat, milk, fishing and so forth). The task of the latter group of main administrations must consist of ensuring that the country's population is supplied with the appropriate types of final products.

In 1981, an administration was created in USSR Gosplan for planning the agroindustrial complex. We are of the opinion that one of the principal tasks of this administration should be that of planning the production of the final product by special purpose product sub-complexes. In the process, the planned activity will be directed towards developing a system of balances for the individual types of final products and achieving effective solutions for the entire range of problems associated with the production of a particular type of product and its logistical support, storage, processing and sale.

Maximum final results can be achieved not only by intensifying the production of this product and raw material but also by reducing their losses to a minimum at all processing stages, reducing the consumption of food products for technical purposes and so forth.

The creation within the country of a single system of planning and administration for the agroindustrial complex will make it possible to reduce the number of unnecessary elements, ensure the rational use of funds and human resources, strengthen the coordinating role played by the administrative organs of the agroindustrial complex, obtain balanced development and close interaction among the branches and to achieve high final results in solving the tasks called for by the food program.

It appears that the mentioned considerations represent the true path to be followed for raising the economic efficiency of social production and achieving proper use of the production resources (land, labor, funds), a reduction in losses and improved quality of output.

As noted, many ministries and departments participate in the production of food goods and raw materials for industry. Some are performing only a negligible portion of their work in behalf of the APK and are attracted to other complexes (fuel-energy, machine building, transport and so forth). Such ministries and departments should not be included in the structure of the agroindustrial complex. But for planning purposes, for the development of food programs at various levels and for determining the actual expenses for the production of food goods, it will be necessary to substantiate the full volume of capital investments and funds, logistical and financial resources and labor resources participating in the production of the final product.

Since specialization in agricultural production is by no means the same in the various oblasts and republics, the structure of the agroindustrial complexes will also vary. Thus it will be necessary to determine which branches belong in the food complex not only of the country but in each republic, oblast and administrative rayon.

Under conditions wherein the final results are greatly dependent upon the work of numerous intermediate elements and upon a complicated system of intra and inter-branch relationships, importance is attached to ensuring efficient coordination of the work of interrelated branches of the APK, in accordance with a single plan.

In conformity with the decisions handed down during the 26th CPSU Congress, draft food programs have been developed in the oblasts and union republics. In the process, an attempt was made to present a food program for the region, to monitor the interrelationships of its constituent parts, to determine the bottlenecks and disproportions and to form an effective structure for the APK. However, the particular experiment revealed that in connection with a violation of the territorial principle of planning, it will be impossible to realize in actual practice the recommendation concerning improvements in the structure of the APK or elimination of the bottlenecks and disproportions.

The territorial organs of administration are not authorized to redistribute the capital investments and logistical resources among the enterprises and organizations of various ministries and departments located on their territory, nor can they carry out the required structural changes, the inter-branch maneuvering of resources or the strengthening of weak elements. For example, Sheksninskiy Rayon in Vologodskaya Oblast was given a plan for the drainage of 3,000 hectares of arable land during this five-year plan. With the formation of the rayon's food program, it turned out to be advisable to reclaim only 500 hectares of the arable land, with the remaining resources being employed for carrying out radical improvements on meadows and pastures. The appropriate measures could not be implemented owing to departmental barriers.

During the October (1980) Plenum of the CC CPSU, it was noted that the agroindustrial complex must be planned, financed and administered as a single whole. This requires that the territorial organs be supplied with the volumes for capital investments and logistical resources, for the agroindustrial complex as a whole, with no breakdowns by branches.

The structure of the APK, the volumes for capital investments and logistical resources for interrelated enterprises and organizations located in a given region and their role with regard to supplying the particular region with food goods must be determined in the various areas. The planned volumes for capital investments and logistical resources, for the production of each type of finished product, will be broken down at the union level according to territories and also according to ministries and departments participating in the production of food goods.

With such an approach being employed, the social problems in the rural areas will be resolved on an all-round basis and, it follows, in a more effective manner.

As is known, the material-monetary and human resources being employed at the present time for creating social-infrastructure installations are being dispersed among enterprises and organizations of various departments. Each of them is building clubs, kindergartens, orchards and so forth for their own purposes. Meanwhile, the centralization of material and financial resources for these purposes and a determination as to the priorities for constructing projects, based upon the requirements of the population and the economy of a specific territory and not individual enterprises and organizations, will actually make it possible to ensure conformity between the territorial and branch principles of planning, achieve substantial improvements in the production structure, streamline the interbranch and intrabranch relationships and determine the priorities for the development of individual branches and rayons.

Further improvements in the organizational forms for planning must be carried out in the interest of achieving a proper division of the planning functions among the various levels. In particular, the territorial organs should be provided with a volume for planned procurements which will conform to the exporting of products beyond the borders of the particular territory. In the interest of satisfying to a greater degree the population's requirements for food products, the planning and administrative organs in the various areas must determine what is to be produced and how it is to be produced in a specific region.

This will facilitate the planning process to a considerable degree, it will ensure efficiency and flexibility in the making of decisions and it will release the upper echelons of management from the petty guidance of local organs. The latter will then display a greater degree of responsibility and sound reasoning in their preparation of plans and in supplying the local population with food products.

The leaders of oblasts, rayons and farms will devote greater attention to the private plots.

As noted during the 26th CPSU Congress, the development of a food program is a very complicated task and one requiring a high degree of creativity. In order to validate the production structure of an APK from a scientific standpoint, control a large number of special purpose networks for the production of the final product and distribute capital investments correctly by specializations and projects, more extensive use must be made of economic-mathematical methods and computer equipment.

Some institutes are engaged in developing models for planning the agroindustrial complex. In particular, the Scientific-Research Institute of Economics and Organization of Agricultural Production in the Non-Chernozem Zone of the RSFSR has developed and approved, for individual rayons and oblasts, a model for optimizing the production structure for a food complex for the region. The reflection in the model of various production technologies is making it possible to determine to whom and in what ratio certain resources should be sent (for raising the cropping power of crops, expanding their plantings, improving the procurement and storage methods and so forth). A comparison of the multivariant estimates for the development of the agroindustrial complex, obtained with the aid of an EVM /electronic computer/, will make it possible to select the best variant for the assigned volumes of final consumption, to determine the optimum structure for the productive capital and, in keeping with the available resources, to ensure a maximum amount of finished product. The task consists of developing a system of economic-mathematical models for planning the agroindustrial complex for various levels (rayon, oblast, republic and country as a whole).

A system of branch and interbranch norms and normatives must be created in order to achieve scientifically sound planning for the agroindustrial complex. Many institutes are engaged in developing such norms and normatives. However, the various collectives operate in ignorance of one another, within the framework of their narrow specialization, at separate and quite often randomly selected projects and in the absence of efficient coordination by a single leader. It appears that the development of normatives should commence at the enterprise and association level, based upon the production technology for the agricultural products.

In order to justify the production structure for the agroindustrial complex and for planning the capital investments by branches and regions, interbranch normatives are required for the production, transporting, storage, processing and sale of each type of final product. This work should be carried out through the joint efforts of scientists representing various branches and specialties (technologists, planners, economists and others) and in accordance with a single plan.

Owing to the extreme diversity of the soil-climatic and economic conditions associated with the production of individual products, the problem of proper distribution and specialization for agricultural enterprises is one of the most important in planning. At the present time, the fluctuations in production efficiency for individual products, by zones and administrative rayons throughout the country, are sevenfold in nature. Great differences are occurring in labor expenditures, fuel and energy per unit of product.

The taking into account of the soil-climatic conditions, when composing the plan for procurements and farm specialization, will make it possible, for the very same resources to increase production and raise its efficiency. At the present time, frequently conflicting economic methods for stimulating and evaluating economic activity are in operation in various branches of the agroindustrial complex. Payments are not always made for real labor and the labor expenditures are adequate for the results achieved. Very limited use is being made of the objective methods for evaluating the economic activities of kolkhozes and sovkhozes or of the contractual relationships between individual elements of the agroindustrial complex. Economic stimuli are being employed in an uncoordinated and unsystematic manner and quite often not only do they not coincide at different levels of control but in fact they conflict with one another. The end result is that the socialist principle "equal pay for equal work" is not always observed and this often leads to economic and social inequality in the status of workers and excessive migration of the able-bodied population from one department to another.

In order to interest all workers in the agroindustrial complex in maximizing the final results, it is enough to create economic conditions which will promote their active participation in fulfilling and over-fulfilling the plans and in searching for production reserves. This requires improvements in the procurement prices for agricultural products and logistical resources being supplied to the rural areas and the introduction of progressive forms for the organization and payments for labor. The existing ratio of state procurement prices for agricultural products is inadequate. The difference in their level is explained by the production profitability for some products and the unprofitableness of other products. To the extent that the specialization of individual farms and regions varies, their overall profitability will differ assuming all other conditions are equal. For example, on farms in the nonchernozem zone of the RSFSR, a considerable proportion of the procurement structure is occupied by low profitability or unprofitable products (milk, vegetables, potatoes, flax and others). An intensification of specialization [illegible] the production of these products, or an increase in their proportion in the procurement structure, lowers the total profitability and increases the number of unprofitable farms. Such a situation is explained by the fact that the process of justifying the state procurement prices is carried out apart from the planning of procurements for the agricultural products.

In order to ensure roughly equal conditions for increasing the production of each type of product throughout the country and eliminating the obstacles to intensifying production specialization, long-range state procurement prices must be established based upon an optimum plan for procurements and normative expenditures for production. If the state provides an association or rayon with a procurement plan, [illegible] socially required level of expenditures for the production of goods and not the actual or individual level as some believe. Only in this manner will it be possible to interest all of the farms in carrying out a procurement plan considered to be optimum from the standpoint of the state. It would be wrong to assume that high prices stimulate a reduction in expenses. But it is precisely on the basis of this condition that the interests of the state and the producers will coincide.

Improvements in prices must not be limited to a periodic smoothing out of their levels for individual products. The prices must be established simultaneously with the development or refinement of the state procurement plan and also with a change in the prices for industrial goods being delivered to the rural areas. When the procurement plan is made available to the enterprises, the latter must know not only the delivery plan for logistical resources but also the level of the procurement prices. The quality of the products must be taken into account in the prices. The absence of stimuli for raising the quality of products has in the final analysis led to a situation wherein, during the past few years, a reduction has taken place in the protein content in grain, sugar in beets, fat in sunflower seed and starch in potatoes.

In taking note of the importance attached to improving the state procurement prices, it should be borne in mind at the same time that a chief factor with regard to raising the efficiency and profitability of agricultural production continues to be that of lowering the production costs for meat, milk, grain, potatoes and other products. Tremendous reserves are available here. The principal ones include: improving the distribution of and specialization in agricultural production; converting over to intensive methods of management; raising labor productivity; proper utilization of land, equipment, fertilizers, feed and fuel-energy and other resources; reducing output losses.

In connection with raising the efficiency of agricultural production, great importance is attached to developing measures for stimulating the material interest of agricultural workers in the results of their labor and for converting over to new forms for issuing incentives and wages based upon the final results. Ideally, we are of the opinion that the normative of the wage fund for 100 rubles of net output should be included among the principal planning indicators. In order to ensure a high level of earnings, the farms will be interested in producing goods with a reduced number of workers. This will radically alter the thinking of enterprise leaders with regard to planning their work force. The economic mechanism will prompt the leaders of farms into searching for opportunities for increasing the production of goods through improved labor productivity. The principal criterion for stimulation will thus become the real volume of the effect obtained, in the form of an actual increase in the output volumes above the average annual level for the Tenth Five-Year Plan. This form of stimulation must be the same at all levels of management and administration.

If the amounts of material remuneration are established in proportion to the effect obtained (final result), then there will be no need to control the work of a non-schedule element or to "invent" new forms for issuing bonuses. The introduction of such a system will make it possible not only to raise sharply labor productivity and the wages of workers, but in addition it will reduce the unplanned migration of the rural population and, in the final analysis, eliminate the tremendous manpower shortage that has developed.

During the present five-year period, the campaign to achieve high results with less expenditures is one of the principal operational trends of all elements. The problems concerned with the efficient utilization of the cadres of workers kolkhoz members and specialists are constantly receiving attention from the scientific, administrative and planning organizations.

The cost accounting relationships between kolkhozes and sovkhozes on the one hand and organizations which provide support for agricultural production on the other must be based upon principles of interest by all partners in the final results. For example, the expenses of rayon branches of Sel'khoztekhnika for maintaining mechanization and agricultural electrification equipment in proper working order can be covered by means of farm funds, based upon the volume of work carried out in terms of output produced and normatives as follows:

...for the machine-tractor pool -- at the rate for one conventional standard hectare of land (in the process, for example, 80 percent of the overall expenses must be paid for by the farms within the course of a year's time and 20 percent -- depending upon the harvest obtained);

...for motor vehicle transport -- for 100 kilometers of run;

...for machines and equipment at animal husbandry farms and complexes -- for 1,000 rubles of value of gross output produced.

Based upon the interrelationships of enterprises associated with the rayon branches of Sel'khozkhimiya on the one hand and kolkhozes and sovkhozes on the other, there must be a system of contractual arrangements and accounts for agrochemical work, one which takes into account the level of production of field crop husbandry products and a system of wages and material incentives that is coordinated with the level of improvement in field fertility and the agrochemical work carried out by associations of Sel'khozkhimiya. For the purpose of stimulating the work of the associations, use can be made of a system of additional payments and incentives presently in use at sovkhozes. On the basis of agreements concluded with farms, specific fields must be retained for a number of years for the associations of rayon branches of Sel'khozkhimiya. A complete complex of measures will be carried out on these fields aimed at achieving high soil fertility. The agrochemical specialists are obligated to guarantee that the yields called for in the agreements will be obtained.

The interrelationships of the various elements of the rayon agroindustrial complex [illegible] that each such element strives to increase not so much the volumes of repair or land reclamation work, nor to fulfill the "gross" plan by means of a more advantageous contract, but rather the final results.

At the present time, there are hundreds of scientific-research institutes, computer centers and planning organizations in operation throughout the country. Owing to their separation, they are solving only particular specialized tasks which are not [illegible] towards the systematic working out of all problems associated with development of the agroindustrial complex. Thus a requirement exists for creating a single scientific center which will be capable of heading up the development of scientific problems for the entire agroindustrial complex, ensuring the implementation of a single scientific-technical policy and preparing recommendations on improving the production structure of the APK, achieving proper distribution for capital investments, improving the economic mechanism and creating automatic systems for planning computations.

The decisions handed down during the 26th CPSU Congress underscore the great importance being attached to conscious and constant support for the relationship existing between the productive forces and production relationships, to the persistent need for developing a well organized economic mechanism and to developing new approaches for planning, administration and stimulation and for overcoming the habit of thinking out and solving socio-economic problems based upon antiquated thinking.

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BELORUSSIAN PRIVATE SECTOR EXAMINED

Republic Reviews Progress

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 1

/Article: "In the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers"/

> /Text/ The republic's government examined the course of fulfillment of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Additional Measures for an Increase in the Production of Agricultural Products on Private Subsidiary Farms of Citizens."

The adopted decree on this matter notes that kolkhozes and sovkhozes have begun to provide greater assistance to citizens in the cultivation of private plots and in the management of private subsidiary farms. Last year the stock of large-horned cattle in the population's private use increased by 18,100 head, or by 2 percent, of hogs, by 44,600 head, or by 3 percent, and of sheep and goats, by 15,500 head, or by 9 percent. The population of large-horned cattle (including cows), hogs and sheep increased considerably in Ivanovskiy, Ivatsevichskiy, Braginskiy, Kalinkovichskiy, Narovlyanskiy, Oktyabr'skiy, Voronovskiy, Volkovysskiy, Kletskiy and some other rayons.

The production of agricultural products on private subsidiary farms increased by 15 percent. The sale of milk, potatoes, vegetables, fruits and berries to the state by the population rose.

At the same time, it was noted at the meeting of the Presidium of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers that in this respect there are significant shortcomings and oversights in the work of agricultural bodies, executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies, kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Ministries of agriculture, of fruit and vegetable industry and of procurement, the Belorussian Union of Cooperatives, oblast executive committees, rayon executive committees and executive committees of settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies were instructed to eliminate existing shortcomings and to take additional measures to improve the conditions of management of private subsidiary farms by citizens and to increase the production and sale of farm and livestock products on them. It was established that the livestock and poultry purchased from the population on the basis of contracts are accepted from kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises according to their live weight.

It was recommended that Soviet and agricultural bodies systematically generalize the practical positive experience of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, other agricultural enterprises, consumer cooperative organizations and procurement organizations in the provision of assistance to kolkhoz members, workers and employees in the management of private subsidiary farms.

Problems, Complaints Aired

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

/Readers' letters and comments by Gayaz Miftakhov, agronomist, nonstaff correspondent of SEL'SKAYA GAZETA; edited by A. D. Kolos: "The Rural Yard Supplies"/

/Text/ What is the Private Farm Like?

It is both small and large. Small as compared with a kolkhoz or sovkhoz and with their vast fields and technical power. Large in its totality: In Belorussia 452,000 hectares of arable land and more than 80,000 hectares of fruit orchards and berry patches are occupied by private plots of kolkhoz members, sovkhoz workers and employees. If one divides this into 9.6 million--this is the number of inhabitants in our republic--one can see that each resident has 0.06 hectares. Is this much or little? For a comparison we will state the following: This is the per-capita amount of all the cultivated land in Japan. This means that our private plot is not so small.

A total of 1,435,000 families live and work on these plots. Utilizing mainly nonwork time, they cultivate their plots and produce more than 7.5 million tons of potatoes, more than 400,000 tons of vegetables--one-half of the entire production volume in the republic--240,000 to 250,000 tons of meat and more than 2 million tons of milk, that is, one-third of its total production volume. The discussion of fruit is separate. For example, according to official statistical data, in 1979 kolkhozes and state farms had fruit bearing orchards on an area of 75,500 hectares. There were 60,500 hectares of orchards on private plots. In public orchards 5.9 quintals of fruits per hectare were picked, gross output totaling 44,900 tons. In orchards in private use the yield was higher, that is, 62 quintals of fruits per hectare, gross output exceeding 376,000 tons. Is this impressive? Buy why such contrasts? It happened that public orchards were suddenly declared "unprofitable," forces and attention were diverted from them and they were neglected. But modern large industrial-type orchards have not yet been established. They are promised by the year 2000. Today's first graders will pick the first fruits from them. However, these first graders need fruits now, today. So it turns out that private orchards must be supported and those that lovingly cultivate them must be helped.

This is how small farms now look. This is a view from the standpoint of material production and their contribution to the solution of the food program. However, there is also another aspect. Children grow in rural families. Their first involvement with labor begins precisely on this, their own, piece of land. The young person along with adults develops a special attachment to land and the ability to love it and to derive joy from its generosity. He gets to know not only the usefulness, but also the beauty, of peasant labor. This is a great thing, moral support for his entire life.

In brief, no matter from what aspect the private farm of a rural worker is approached, it deserves close attention and great concern.

> Small-scale mechanization on private farms... It facilitates the peasant's labor and increases agricultural output. A specialist comments on readers' letters on this subject.

Long-Awaited Minitractor

"I live in the village of Malashino in Polotskiy Rayon," writes Vasiliy Sergeyevich Shirokov. "There are hardly any horses on the sovkhoz and there is nothing to plow private plots with. Potatoes have to be planted manually. Much time, which could be used in public production, is spent on this. The newspaper reported that the Minsk Tractor Plant was beginning the output of motor units for private farms. How to acquire such a machine?"

There are many such letters and each has a question: When? When so-called small-scale mechanization, which facilitates work on private farms, will come in abundance and in a wide assortment? That is why, as soon as the report on the MTZ-05 appeared, a flow of letters literally poured into various instances: How much does it cost? Where can one buy it? But the situation is as follows: The first experimental batch of 150 MTZ-05 motor units was manufactured in 1980. They have already been sold through consumer cooperatives at the preliminary price of 1,100 rubles. Trailing implements for the motor unit are also manufactured. The Lida Agricultural Machine Plant manufactures plows and ridgers, the Volkovyssk Foundry Equipment Plant, harrows and cultivators, the Bobruysk Farm Machine Building Plant, PKh-05 semitrailers and the Gomel' Agricultural Machine Building Plant, mowers.

Both the motor unit itself and the implements for it, if one is to describe them briefly, are simply a dream. However, I must make a reservation: a dream not only in the figurative, but also in the literal, sense. Judge for yourself.

Last year the Minsk Tractor Plant manufactured only 300 motor units. This is not because tractor builders do not want to do so, but because, essentially, their hands are tied. First, by no means all the problems connected with the production of this machine have been solved in the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building itself. But a great deal depends on this: funds, ceilings and cooperation. After all, not a single complex machine is made by one enterprise alone. More than a dozen plants--suppliers of various parts and subassemblies--now participate in the manufacture of the MTZ-05. Not every plant is accurate in the fulfillment of its obligations as a partner. The Minsk Machine Tool Building Plant imeni Kirov, the Borisov Avtogidrousilitel' Plant and the Voronezh Tire Plant especially let tractor builders down. If some part does not arrive, there is no machine.

Second, the tractor plant does not yet have a production site for the organization of the mass output of the motor unit and there is no place for the establishment of this site on the territory of the plant itself--it must be sought elsewhere. Furthermore, the machine has not yet undergone the prescribed state test and, consequently, standards have not been approved and the price has not been established. All these and other problems await their solution.

The press (the journal NEMAN) reported that 15,000 motor units would be annually manufactured during the current five-year plan. This information is not accurate. Such motor units will not be manufactured by the Minsk Tractor Plant, but by the Kutais Tractor Plant for tea plantations and vineyards.

This is the situation with the minitractor. The interest evoked by the report on it in the press is quite understandable. However, despite the real state of affairs, premature advances were issued thoughtlessly. Everyone began to dream about the minitractor. The duty of tractor builders and of the appropriate ministries is to justify these hopes. Incidentally, there is such a desire. A total of 500 minitractors will be manufactured this year. One will agree, however, that the rates are by no means up-to-date. The fact that the Minsk Tractor Plant manufactures minitractors according to the "consumer goods" column is hardly conducive to them. Apparently, the distribution of tractors should also be placed under control. Minitractors can already be seen in various operations in Minsk. Is it not better, as long as there are not enough of them, to assign them only according to their direct purpose--to rural areas and, primarily, to the organizations undertaking the servicing of private plots that are now being established here and there?

However, fascinated by the minitractor, for all I know, we may completely forget about the horse. But it never let us down and will not let us down. Let us say frankly: In the cultivation of private plots for the time being we must rely on the horse.

Now About the Horse

In the entire republic there are 230,000 horses together with studs and others. Private farms have about 1.5 million. If the entire stock is divided into this number, there will be one horse for six or seven yards. This would be tolerable if all the horses worked on private plots. However, more than one-half of them are constantly engaged in manual horse operations on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This means that the load on the remaining horses must be doubled in order to cultivate private plots with their help. This is the average. After all, there are farms where there are very few horses. In the village of Vos'moye of the Pobeda Kolkhoz in Lyubanskiy Rayon there are only four horses for 35 yards. This is not dense.

This is what pensioners, war veterans, from the villages of Lunitsa and Bunnoye in [illegible]iy Rayon write:

"There are three villages in our brigade. We live 8 km away from the center of the sovkhoz and from the hospital. Horses used to come to our rescue. But they are being taken away from the brigade, because it is said that there are no barns or feed. But there is a barn, it only needs to be repaired. In fact, however, there is no feed. There was straw, but it was left to rot. It should have been dried and horses would have had feed. However, no one turned to us, pensioners. At least we dried and stacked part of it. What will we do when the horses are driven away? How are we to bring a person to the hospital and back? How are we to cultivate our plots?"

We understand the anxiety of these people. But do the managers of the Niva Sovkhoz, on whose territory the villages of Bunnoye and Lunitsa are located, understand it?

However, in addition to feed horses need something else. Lyubov' Aleksandrovna Ravdo, chief of the production section of the Put' Il'icha Kolkhoz in Myadel'skiy Rayon, writes about this:

"We have sufficient agricultural equipment. Nevertheless, it is still necessary to use horses both in kolkhoz production and on private farms of kolkhoz members. But the harness is completely worn out and there is nothing to repair it with. We mended it as much as possible, but nothing is forever. I don't know how we will work and how kolkhoz members will plant potatoes on their plots. We seek help in the entire oblast and turn to whomever is possible. But no one can help us."

This is not the only letter. People write that it is not always possible to buy garden rakes, forks, scythes, slanting pick hammers and garden shears... Ivan Georgiyevich Drin'kov, pensioner from the Grigorovichi Sovkhoz in Lepel'skiy Rayon, complains that the sovkhoz is concerned only with the purchase of large equipment and that horse plows, hillers and harrows have disappeared completely.

Meanwhile, there was surprise in the division of local industry of the Belorussian SSR State Planning Committee: How is that? The production of orchard and garden implements increased 5.5-fold during the past five-year plan. In 1975 orchard and garden implements worth 180,000 rubles were produced and in 1980, worth 989,000. We do not intend to refute these figures.

However, they are given in rubles, that is, they express the value of the produced implements. But it can be arrived at in different ways. One can make something conspicuous, large and expensive. "Trifles," for example, the same garden shears and sickles, are completely different matters. With regard to horse harness production, in the opinion of Aleksandr Semenovich Frantskevich, chief of the division, it does not have any prospects at all. Everything depends on how the horse stock will be developed.

"No one takes the carts manufactured by the Shchuchinsk Agricultural Equipment Plant--there is no demand for them in the republic. We sell them elsewhere. The same also applies to horse plows," he said in conclusion.

However, first, there are many complaints about Shchuchinsk carts. Any manager will ponder before buying them. Second, those that are rubber-tired, that is, for asphalt, not for rural roads, are sold elsewhere.

Now about the demand for carts and about the fact that, allegedly, it does not exist in the republic. Here is a recent case. The editorial board received a letter from M. Kudlenkov, leader of an overall brigade on one of the sovkhozes (he did not mention the name) in Vetkovskiy Rayon:

"I accepted a brigade. We came to the horse yard, but there was not a single cart there. But spring is coming and horse-drawn transport is needed. The sovkhoz director agreed to buy carts. He told me to look for them. But where? Where can one obtain the ill-fated carts?"

The editorial board could have advised M. Kudlenkov of the address of the same Shchuchinsk Plant, which, incidentally, is the only one in the republic. But the staff reasoned as follows: Pehaps in Vetkovskiy Rayon carts are needed not only [illegible] M. Kudlenkov's brigade? It sent his letter to the rayon agricultural administration. This administration will find out who else needs carts and will help to order them--after all, spring has come and it is necessary to hurry up. However, only M. Kudlenkov was in a hurry. His letter did not evoke any concern. One month later he received an answer that, to buy a cart, one must go to the city of Mena in Chernigovskaya Oblast. And who will guarantee that in the entire rayon only brigade leader M. Kudlenkov needs a cart and that there are not about a dozen such brigade leaders who have horses without carts? It is the same in the republic--who knows what is the actual demand for carts?

The Belorussian State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture has funds for the production of horse equipment. Claims and orders for its production and supply for consumers are concentrated here. With respect to horse plows and harrows there is no problem--whatever kolkhozes and sovkhozes ask for is released annually. But the situation with other equipment is unsatisfactory. I was shown a sheet of paper with a list of the models of equipment for display at the Minsk Machine Testing Station. There were 74 items on the list: one- and two-horse carts, carts with ordinary and rubber tires, plows, harrows, collars and bridles, including wrought nails--everything was at the exhibit. It is up to consumers. They need to select everything that they like and to submit orders. Initiative and activity should be manifested in the localities and not only by kolkhozes and sovkhozes, but primarily by rayon organizations. They must determine the list and quantity and help farms formulate orders, including for carts.

Hay for the Cow

[illegible] years have passed since the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted the decree "On Private Subsidiary Farms of Kolkhoz Members, Workers, Employees and Other Citizens and on Collective Horticulture and Gardening." However, concern for them is not yet sufficiently manifested in the localities. Some understood the decree only from one aspect--yield: How much meat, milk, potatoes and vegetables can be taken from private farms for the fulfillment of the rayon plan. At best they limit themselves to the allocation of pastures and hayfields and to the barter of state mixed feed. However, even this is done thoughtlessly in a number of places.

For example, how are we to evaluate what war and labor veterans from the Sudkovo Sovkhoz in Khovnikskiy Rayon wrote to us:

"Our hayfield is at the distance of 17 to 20 km and shares are allocated in September, at the height of potato harvesting. We have no time to mow hay. We have to hire a tractor operator to mow and transport hay to the farmstead. We pay him 20 rubles for this and treat him to dinner..."

Veterans are hurt, otherwise they would not write to the newspaper's editorial board. The tractor operator, who uses a sovkhoz tractor, is paid handsomely, but sovkhoz management has no concern or care for labor veterans.

Here is another version. Ivan Maksimovich Matsuro, recipient of a special pension from the Pobeda Kolkhoz in Lyubanskiy Rayon, writes about it:

"Hayfields of the first cutting are given primarily to animal husbandry workers--0.20 hectares per worker. Then for the cultivation of sugar beets the remaining plots are distributed according to the rubles earned. A wife works as a milker and her husband, as a herdsman. Both receive 0.40 hectares. Their wages are also high, that is, 3,000 to 5,000 rubles annually. As a result, one family receives 1 to 1.5 hectares of hayfields. What do they need so much hay for? To sell it at 2 to 3 rubles per pood? What is to happen to people who, because of the state of their health, earn 500 to 700 rubles annually, or to very old disabled war veterans? Many pensioners, war and labor veterans, remain without hay and sell their cows."

There is something to think about here. In fact, what is such an excess per cow for? Of course, livestock breeders and advanced production workers should be given incentives. But why in the form of hay? The cow, which gives milk, needs hay. Is it not more logical to allocate feed against livestock products? If one sells more milk, one receives more hay, as is done on the Krasnoslobodskiy Sovkhoz in Oktyabr'skiy Rayon. One would think that such a method is fairer. However, even in this case the strength and capabilities of pensioners, labor veterans, should not be forgotten. These are not such that would enable them to tend their cow on a par with young people and to obtain and sell more milk from it. Nor should families with many children be equated with them.

Problems, Problems

There is another big and very important problem. I. Tulupov, resident of the village of Kopan' in Rechitskiy Rayon, touched upon it in his letter.

"V. Moroz, manager of the Kopan' Department of the Borshchevka Sovkhoz, with the consent of pensioners sowed rye on their private plots and instead planted potatoes with sovkhoz equipment in another place and cultivated them. In the fall the brigade leader measured off a potato area for every pensioner for harvesting. Pensioners were very satisfied. However, there is already talk that this will no longer be. This is a mistake," I. Tulupov concludes his letter.

We don't know whether such a procedure has been established on the sovkhoz. But the people started a good thing there. They helped not only pensioners--this is self-evident--but potatoes as well, freeing them from the restriction of the private plot, as our ancestors did. Thus, historians testify that in Minskaya and Mogilevskaya Guberniyas in the first quarter of last century potatoes came out from the restriction of gardens to the expanses of fields and made a revolution in agrotechnology. Farmers began to give up the customary three-field system and to introduce the more advanced four-field system. This involved another important innovation in farming--grass sowing. But we in the age of cybernetics, cosmonautics and the scientific and technical revolution have kept 400,000 hectares of potatoes within the confines of the republic's private plots, have cultivated them continuously in the same place for more than 30 years and, what is more, want to obtain an abundant harvest.

Now we will approach this problem from another aspect. In our areas at the beginning of last century the potato was a new, healthy and vigorous crop and had no enemies. During that period the Colorado beetle inhabited Mexico's remote southern slopes, led a quiet and harmless life and lived on wild plants from the nightshade family. At that time no one assumed that, suddenly, it would begin to plunder and cause chaos among potato growers throughout the world.

Although the phytophthora destroyed all the potato crops in Ireland, causing a terrible hunger, it was far, very far, from us. We did not even hear about potato canker and potato nematode. Now, however, these and many other fungi, bacteria and viruses have settled forever where potatoes are cultivated continuously, that is, on private plots.

Therefore, when the private plot is taken out to the field, the strictest precautions must be observed. After all, what reason do we have to carry out dangerous diseases from a small plot to a big field? In order that this may not happen, scientists have developed special recommendations on how to act in each specific case. Specialists state that a violation of these recommendations inevitably leads to a spread of dangerous potato diseases. This happened in some rayons in Brestskaya Oblast. Owing to a violation of these rules, potato nematode cysts were brought to crop rotation fields on the Vostok Kolkhoz in Zhabinkovskiy Rayon on an area of 5 hectares, on the Svetlyy Put' Kolkhoz in Ivanovskiy Rayon on an area of 10 hectares and on the sovkhoz-tekhnikum in Pruzhanskiy Rayon on an area of 20 hectares. This is a serious warning. How to avoid this? In the localities there are representatives of the special service for the quarantine of agricultural plants. Before taking out plots from the garden to crop rotation fields, it is necessary to treat them. They will say how to do this.

We have touched only upon a few problems suggested by the mail, problems of concern to those who have private farms. We hope that readers will continue this discussion. Positive experience, when the thoughtful attitude of kolkhoz and sovkhoz managers to the private farms of workers helps to increase their output, is of special interest for the benefit of this matter.

We also hope that managers of farms and of the appropriate services and departments and local party, Soviet and agricultural bodies will manifest genuine concern for the needs of the rural yard. After all, although these farms are private, there should be common concern for them. Only then will they be able to make a big contribution to the solution of the food problem.

11,439
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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

LATVIAN RAPO OPERATION DESCRIBED, MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AIRED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 5 Feb 82 p 2

/Article by O. Iostson, chairman of the Valmiyera Agrarian-Industrial Association of the Latvian SSR: "By the Efforts of the Entire Rayon"/

/Text/ The agrarian-industrial association operates in our rayon almost 3 years. It includes all the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, as well as the association for supply of production equipment for agriculture, an interkolkhoz construction organization, the rayon production association for agrochemical services for agriculture, a specialized mobile mechanized column, a poultry farm, a mobile mechanized column for the construction of waterworks and a station for the breeding of pedigree bulls.

The first steps taken by the rayon agrarian-industrial association (RAPO) convinced us that the right path for the coordination of the efforts of the partners in the rayon agroindustrial complex was found. The association council was able to do a great deal for the organization of strong interfarm relations. Proper order was introduced in the work with the seed stock in the rayon. The construction of a modern complex for seed preparation is in full swing. A mechanized center for seed treatment will be put into operation soon. A mechanized warehouse will also be commissioned. All these and other measures will make it possible to renovate seeds regularly.

Specialization and concentration of production has begun in animal husbandry. A specialized farm for the breeding of young replacement stock for the dairy herd operates in the rayon. A second such enterprise is being established. Nine large mechanized complexes for milk production, at which we keep one-fourth of the productive herd, operate. It is very important that milk yields are higher here than on old farms. The expenditures of labor and funds per unit of output have been lowered considerably at these complexes.

The hog raising base has been strengthened in the last few years. As compared with the beginning of the last five-year plan the hog population has almost doubled. The concentration of poultry breeding and bee keeping has been completed. Sheep breeding has begun to be transferred to an industrial basis.

The agrarian-industrial association succeeded in activating considerably the work of the partners servicing agricultural enterprises. For example, Sel'khozkhimiya organized the extraction of litter peat for the preparation of composts, which the olkhozes and sovkhozes themselves did on a small scale previously. In our opinion, the department of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture joined in the work of the rayon agrarian-industrial association with particular success. It participates in the formation of the association's centralized funds and has undertaken the production of grass feed on a large interfarm area of cultivated hayfields. Cooperation in this matter was organized in stages. At first the Burtniyeki Sovkhoz built a shop with state credit, which can produce about 100 tons of grass meal per shift. Then reclamation specialists drained 600 hectares of peat bogs. Perennial grass was sown by four neighboring farms. Then the rayon department of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture leased the newly built shop. Its workers gather the harvest with their equipment (two self-propelled mowers, four dump trucks and a Belarus' tractor).

The grass grown on meadows is sold to the grass meal shop at the accounting prices set by the rayon agrarian-industrial association. An agronomist specializing in meadow cultivation, who is supported by four farms, watches over the observance of the order of harvesting, prompt application of mineral fertilizers to meadows and accuracy of grass weighing. The shop sells the prepared grass meal (or granules) to mixed feed enterprises. As is well known, a barter of concentrates for the sold grass meal has been introduced. This feed is distributed among cooperating farms in strict accordance with the amount of green fodder sold for the feed shop.

Last year the shop began its operation with some delay, because it was commissioned only at the end of June. Nevertheless, two hay cuttings on each meadow were carried out and the feed base of the farms--cooperative members--was strengthened considerably. On the basis of the experience of the first interfarm shop it was decided to establish two more such enterprises. Their technical servicing is to be entrusted to the rayon department of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture. The shops will not only produce grass meal or granules, but also prepare pressed hay and preserved grass feed and dry fodder grain.

In a comparatively short period the association succeeded in solving another complex problem, which worried field crop growers many years. It concerns initial flax processing and the sale of flax products. The association council decided to put an end to the long disputes in which kolkhozes and sovkhozes engaged with the processing industry. The construction of a flax plant with bank credit in the Ruyena settlement was basically completed. Equipment is being installed and set up. As [illegible] year the interfarm enterprise will begin operating at full capacity.

The rayon agrarian-industrial association developed an especially significant construction project--an enterprise for the output of peat molasses--in the settlement of Zilayskalns. In the vicinity reclamation specialists developed two large land areas with a thick top peat layer. The first stage of this complex will be put into operation in 1982 and the following year it will be able to produce about 7,000 tons of peat molasses or 1,500 tons of feed yeast. Subsequently, a hog complex is to be built here.

The rayon agrarian-industrial association widely resorts to bank credit. The point is that its centralized funds are still quite modest. The association has neither a production development fund nor a mutual assistance fund, which exist, for example, in the Vil'yandiskiy Rayon Agrarian-Industrial Association of the Estonian

SSR. Furthermore, our association must annually allocate quite sizable funds--up to 180,000 rubles--for the maintenance of the association's central staff from the contributions received from members. But 3 years ago the workers of the rayon agricultural administration received their wages from the capital of the state budget. This seems wrong to us. After all our kolkhozes and sovkhozes do not have "superfluous" money. The profitability of the production of agricultural products is declining. Ten years ago the rayon's agriculture obtained up to 10 million /rubles/ of net profit and now it obtains only 2 million.

Of course, the several unfavorable years that our rayon and the republic as a whole endured had a significant effect on the income of farms. However, the rise in the prices of construction materials, mineral fertilizers and machines had no lesser effect on the financial status. It is also difficult to understand why farms should pay the entire scholarship, not only its increased part, to their scholarship students, as though the scholarship support adopted in the country no longer exists for students sent to higher educational institutions by kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The situation is also hampered by the fact that financial interrelations with some enterprises located on the rayon territory have not yet been regulated. Unfortunately, neither the meat combine nor the dairy product combine is a member of the agrarian-industrial association and, of course, does not participate in the formation of centralized funds. This phenomenon is explained in the following manner: The processing enterprises located in Valmiyera service several rayons and in time will place a certain amount of their income in the centralized funds of the republic agrarian-industrial association. Of course, such funds will be needed. As yet, however, we do not know when this association will be formulated and, in our opinion, we need not await such a decision. To be sure, both the Valmiyera Meat Combine and the Valmiyera Milk Product Combine receive livestock and milk not only from our farms. However, it is well known what share of the output is delivered to processing enterprises by a specific rayon. And if this is the case, then it is not difficult to disclose the share of the above-plan profit that every rayon agrarian-industrial association can expect.

In 3 years our association showed well its advantages. However, in our dealings we often encounter obstacles, which arise owing to departmental barriers at a republic level. That is why simultaneously with the organization of rayon agrarian-industrial associations in the republic's other rayons we would consider it advisable to prepare an organizational formulation of the republic's agrarian-industrial association. The republic's scientists have developed its plan. Ministries of agriculture, of fruit and vegetable industry, of reclamation and water resources, of procurement and of meat and dairy industry, the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture, Latsel'khozkhimiya, interkolkhoz construction organizations, meat and dairy, food and light industry enterprises, mobile mechanized columns engaged in the construction of agricultural projects and other departments and organizations are to be included in the association. In the practical operation of the rayon agrarian-industrial association in our rayon we became convinced that the fulfillment of these recommendations should not be delayed for a long time. When implementing agrarian-industrial integration, we must not stop halfway.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

COORDINATING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY IN MOLDAVIAN AGRICULTURE

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 82 p 2

/Article by A. Zhuchenko, president of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR and Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "Scientific Arsenal of Farmers"/

/Text/ During the November (1981) Plenum of the CC CPSU, emphasis was placed upon the fact that "the food problem -- from both an economic and political standpoint -- is the central problem of this five-year plan." The successful solving of this task requires collaboration among scientists representing various specialties. During the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, the production of agricultural products in Moldavia must be increased by 22 percent. This entire increase must be achieved by means of a raised intensity for production operations.

Certainly, in this regard great hopes are being placed upon science and upon strengthening its links with production. The first step taken in this direction was the creation of scientific production associations headed by branch NII's /scientific research institute/. This places an important lever in the hands of the scientists for influencing the rates for scientific-technical progress in the principal branches.

Complex solutions will be found for the problems associated with the agroindustrial complex through the thematic and organizational merging of academic and branch science, based upon programs for the special planning of studies.

Institutes of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences, together with scientific-production associations of the republic's Ministry of Agriculture, are carrying out 16 complex programs in the field of agriculture.

In connection with improving the planning of scientific studies and ensuring that complex solutions are found for them, great importance is being attached to the creation of a republic council for coordinating the inter-branch scientific-technical problems. This has made it possible to raise the scientific level of the programs and to concentrate the scientific forces on the complete carrying out of the more important tasks of the agroindustrial complex. In the process, the coordinating role played by the republic's Academy of Sciences in the solving of inter-branch problems will be raised considerably.

All of these measures have made it possible to ensure the coordination of studies on the republic scale, both horizontally (based upon a merging of the forces of academic, VUZ and branch science) and vertically (through a strengthening of the links with branch ministries and departments). As a result, a new system was formed for organizing and controlling science, a system based upon the programming-special purpose principle for the planning of scientific-research and experimental-design work, upon more efficient utilization of the experimental-production base and upon the rapid introduction of the recommendations by scientists into production operations.

The development of scientific principles for a system for managing agricultural production occupies a central place in the biological studies called for in the inter-branch programs. It is our opinion that the complex solving of this problem represents an important condition for achieving stability in agricultural production and for making efficient use of the resources allocated for development of the agroindustrial complex. Towards this end, work is being carried out aimed at creating new strains and hybrids, achieving an optimum distribution for the agricultural crops, designing large-scale and ecologically stable agricultural ecological systems and developing energy-saving technologies.

Further intensification of the agroindustrial complex requires basically new technologies which will make it possible not only to lower labor intensiveness, but also to realize savings in the use of raw materials, materials, fuel and electric power and also to raise the quality of the products. This is why the plans of institutes of applied physics, chemistry, physiology and biochemistry of plants and others call for a considerable expansion, jointly with branch institutes, in studies concerned with the development of new technologies for the storage, transporting and processing of agricultural products.

The collective labor performed by our scientists in developing new electrical engineering methods for the processing of fruit and vegetable raw materials serves as an example of active contribution by science towards development of the republic's APK /agroindustrial complex/. The industrial units of the "Plazmoliz" type, which they created, have proven their worth at processing enterprises. The processing of fruit and vegetable raw materials on a thrashing floor has made it possible to increase considerably the yield of grape juice and essential oils. The practical use of the units is producing an annual savings of more than 5 million rubles.

However, it bears mentioning that the scale and level of many studies are still not in keeping with the increasing requirements of agriculture and its related branches of industry. Insufficient work is being carried out in connection with studies in the field of physico-chemical biology and biotechnology, the development of basically new breeding methods for plants and animals and the conservation and proper utilization of natural resources. Restraining factors also include weak support in the form of modern instruments and equipment and unsatisfactory carrying out of the plans for building an experimental base.

In inter-departmental studies concerned with APK problems, the role played by special purpose financing and logistical support must be increased substantially. This will exert a positive effect on the operational efficiency of those leading scientific institutes responsible for the level of the scientific studies and the timely introduction of their results into production operations. Cost accounting institutes of a biological profile, planning-design and technological subunits, experimental production efforts for the production of physiologically active substances, complexes for the carrying out of studies in the field of ecology, agricultural power engineering, biophysics and others should be developed at accelerated rates.

In order to weaken the dependence of agriculture upon weather conditions, it will be necessary to have available not only an adequate and diverse supply of stable plant varieties and hybrids, but also the possibility of correct regionalization and the use of differentiated technologies for cultivation and protection. The campaign to achieve high yields and reduce losses must be reinforced by all-round studies of the overall technological cycle.

Considerable improvements are required in the entire system of state strain testing and in the breeding of new varieties and hybrids which combine high potential cropping power with resistance against extreme natural factors.

At the present time, an agronomist has an extremely limited arsenal of means at his disposal for influencing the formation of a crop depending upon the specific annual conditions. At the present time, with greater quantities of fertilizer and pesticides being employed and the area of reclaimed land increasing, special importance is attached to ensuring that they are utilized properly. At the same time, in connection with the existing technologies for cultivating plants, the losses of nitrogen, phosphorus and irrigation water as a rule amount to 50 or more percent.

Orientation towards energy-saving and nature-protective technologies and systems for agricultural production must become a long-term strategy for development of the [illegible] complex. The timely solving of these tasks requires first of all [illegible] overcoming of interdepartmental dissociation with regard to studies in the [illegible] of plant breeding and agricultural practices, land reclamation and the development of machine systems, land management and agrometeorological support and the storage, transporting and processing of agricultural products.

[illegible] of the opinion that a greater role should be played by VASKhNIL, as the [illegible] scientific center, in ensuring the complex development and coordination of [illegible] implementing a single scientific-technical policy in the sphere of the country's agroindustrial food complex. In the process, studies should be concentrated and developed at VASKhNIL not only in connection with traditional subjects but also in such areas as agricultural meteorology, agricultural machine building and instrument making, ecology, land management, the storage and processing of agricultural products and so forth.

Importance is attached to strengthening relations between VASKhNIL on the one hand and the USSR Academy of Sciences and republic academies of sciences on the other. The operational experience of the Academy of Sciences of the Moldavian SSR reveals that the merging of the creative efforts of scientists of the academic and branch sciences is making it possible not only to raise considerably the effectiveness of fundamental studies but also to solve, on a new basis, many tasks associated with raising the productivity of plants and animals and conserving and ensuring rational use of natural resources.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

PROGRESS OF SUBSIDIARY FARMS OF ROSTOVSKAYA OBLAST COOPERATIVES

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Feb 82 p 2

/Article by G. Khoroshozhenov, chairman of the board of the Rostovskaya Oblast Union of Consumer Cooperatives: "At the Expense of Local Resources"/

/Text/ Every year workers in cooperatives in the Don area search for additional sources for the supply of food, primarily meat and meat products, for the population. By the end of the current five-year plan the subsidiary farms of the Oblast Union of Consumer Cooperatives will triple meat production and annual meat purchases from the population will reach 30,000 tons. Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies thoroughly support the initiative of cooperative workers.

The work of the Yegorlykskiy Rayon Union of Consumer Cooperatives can serve as an example of such an initiative. Its subsidiary farm has 475 hectares of land and soil cultivating equipment. A hog fattening house for 1,800 animals, two breeding houses, a building for keeping 600 head of large-horned cattle, a sheepyard for 200 sheep, a warehouse for feed and a silage storage facility were built there. The necessary production and cultural-general conditions for the service personnel are being created. The subsidiary farm annually produces more than 400 tons of meat and this year more than 500 tons are to be produced.

Neklinovskiy Rayon also approached the utilization of existing potentials creatively. The subsidiary farm of the rayon consumer cooperative annually fattens a large number of poultry in adapted houses. Workers V. Yegoshina and R. Bodrova each raise 30,000 head of poultry and more. A mechanized duck house for 130,000 head was commissioned there in 1981. This will make it possible to greatly increase the production of poultry meat.

Workers in Neklinovskiy Rayon are not satisfied with what has been achieved. A total of 200 hectares of land and equipment were allocated to the farm. Cooperative workers plan to build a hog house for increasing the size and two houses for the fattening of 1,800 animals, two breeding houses, a feed shop and a meat processing shop during this five-year plan. Last year the subsidiary farm produced 500 tons of meat and by the end of the five-year plan it will double its production. Other rayons in the oblast--Sal'skiy, Tatsinskiy, Millerovskiy, Matveyevo-Kurganskiy and Zimovnikovskiy--also follow this road.

We realize that what has been attained is by no means the limit. It is necessary to increase the livestock population and to build livestock barns. We expect to more efficiently utilize food waste for the fattening of hogs. We annually gather about 9,000 tons of food waste. However, this is a minimum.

In the oblast there are many reservoirs, which can be adapted for the breeding and catching of fish. For example, Kagal'nitsk cooperative workers developed a reservoir of 250 hectares. On its basis we plan to organize a full system farm for 500 tons of commercial fish annually. "Blue farms" also exist in Myasnikovskiy and a number of other rayon consumer cooperatives. During the 5-year period cooperative workers in the oblast will sell no less than 1,900 tons of pond fish to the population.

We are restoring another undeservedly forgotten sector--bee keeping. In 1981 subsidiary farms purchased 600 bee colonies and obtained 6 tons of honey. Subsequently we will establish an apiary for a minimum of 100 bee colonies at every rayon consumer cooperative. We will also increase our attention to rabbit raising.

Our own production is only one aspect of the matter. The purchase of products produced on private subsidiary farms is another, no less important, aspect. A total of 800 procurement officials and up to 5,000 shop workers are engaged in it. A wide aktiv consisiting of deputies of local soviets and consumer cooperative workers was established at procurement offices. Postmen and pensioners are enlisted in purchases. We are now opening 200 additional acceptance and procurement centers in villages. By the end of the five-year plan there will be one such center per 300 peasant farms.

This is especially important, because fundamentally new conditions for the output of the peasant farm are being created in the oblast. The provision of private subsidiary farms with young stock and feed is being improved. About 600,000 hoglings and 30 million chicks are annually sold to the population. The raising of poultry and fattening of livestock and hogs on private farms on a contractual basis with consumer cooperatives are practised.

Of course, we pay special attention to a clear separation of procurement zones, strict observance of the schedules of delivery of agricultural products and supply of containers and packaging materials. We widely use moral and material incentives and a countersale of goods in great demand. In 1981 a total of 300 passenger cars and many motorcycles and other industrial goods were sold to the best delivery agents and procurement officials. In 1981, as compared with 1980, meat purchases in the system of the Oblast Union of Consumer Cooperatives rose by 2,700 tons and the volumes of purchases of milk, eggs, honey, vegetable oil and grain products increased.

It is important to improve the storage and processing of purchased and produced products. Last year the Bataysk Meat Combine of the system of consumer cooperatives produced 2,340 tons of sausage products. By the end of the five-year plan its capacities will increase and it will begin to produce up to 3,000 or 3,500 tons of products. A refrigerator for 1,000 tons will be built here. The food combine in Zimovnikovskiy Rayon is also to be reconstructed.

A wide industrial bread baking network has been established in our oblast in the last few years. Old bakeries are used for the output of nonalcoholic beverages and culinary products. The production of condensed watermelon syrup, fruit paste made of watermelon juice, horseradish and mustard was mastered in 1981 alone. The construction of a shop for the output of halva is beginning.

By the end of the 5-year period the output of consumer goods at the enterprises of the Oblast Union of Consumer Cooperatives will reach 16 to 18 percent of the total volume of retail trade turnover instead of 10 percent in 1980.

Consumer cooperatives now sell purchased surpluses of agricultural products and produced foodstuffs worth 150 million rubles.

Of course, local resources have by no means been exhausted. Unfortunately, there are rayon procurement offices that do not fulfill plans and rayon consumer cooperatives that do not develop subsidiary farms. These shortcomings must be eliminated resolutely. The more efficiently rural consumer cooperatives work, the greater their contribution to the formation of food resources and to the further rise in the well-being of the Soviet people will become.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

HELP FOR HOG FARM, COLLECTIVE GARDEN OF POWER STATION ASKED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Mar 82 p 3

/Article by I. Okovityy, director of the Raychikhinskaya State Regional Electric Power Station, Amurskaya Oblast: "In the Role of Beggars"/

> /Text/ Subsidiary plots of enterprises are constantly increasing output. However, do they always receive support and help?

The benefit from subsidiary plots and small fattening farms of enterprises is significant. Everyone understands this. Our state regional electric power station established its hog farm at the end of 1979. A total of 10 kg of meat per worker were produced last year. Of course, this is not much, but after all this is only the beginning. We plan to double meat production.

From what did our farm begin? With the construction of a barn. We did all the internal planning and the installation of equipment for the feeding and watering of animals on our own. We equipped the floors in the cages of the breeding herd with electric heating, hanged lamps above and made drinking bowls and feeders of our design. The experience proved to be successful and last year it was utilized at the hog farm of the Leninskiy Put' Kolkhoz in Arkharinskiy Rayon under our patronage.

In establishing small farms, thought must be given to feed. It is necessary to carefully take specific conditions into consideration. In our opinion, such hog farms should utilize primarily food waste. This is correct. Last year we delivered one-third of what was planned to the hog farm. In our settlement the population fully utilizes food waste for the fattening of private livestock. It is necessary to count on waste from kindergartens and the restaurant.

However, there is a way out. We need land for feed production. The city executive committee and the executive committees of soviets of adjacent rayons do not hasten to allocate it. We "lease" arable land, on which we grow succulent feed, on farms on agreement with their managers. However, without our own land it is not easy to expand pork production. We could transform land that is not utilized now into a source of feed.

When we established the farm, the situation with equipment was difficult. Now it is not easy to obtain medication for inoculations. We need the help of the kolkhozes under our patronage. On the same Leninskiy Put' Kolkhoz we built a seed cleaning line, reconstructed livestock barns and participate in feed procurement and harvesting. In turn the specialists of this kolkhoz could help us with agronomical and zootechnical advice and train machine operators and livestock breeders.

I know that for my manager colleagues this is one of the most painful problems. Six farms were established at the industrial enterprises of our settlement alone. However, only one has a zootechnician. True production technologists are very needed. The efficiency of the entire operation of subsidiary plots largely depends on this.

There is also another consideration. It is possible to organize a society of amateur livestock breeders. At our enterprise alone 320 people are ready to enter it. However, the city executive committee does not solve the problem of allocation of a plot for livestock structures, although, one would think, this is a worthwhile venture. Does the experience of horticultural associations not confirm this?

Almost all the necessary potatoes and vegetables with the exception of cabbage are produced locally. There is no need to transport them to the settlement. We profit a great deal from the collective garden. We help to cultivate it. It would be good to solve the problem of protecting plants against pests and diseases. For some reason specialists do not want to help us.

In our opinion, there is one conclusion: The small farm and the collective garden need constant help. It will be repaid with an increase in output.

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BONUSES SET FOR SAVING FUEL, ECONOMY IN EQUIPMENT USE

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 7, Feb 82 p 16

/Readers' questions and answers by the division of agriculture of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems: "Incentives for Saving Fuel and Economical Attitude Toward Equipment"/

> /Text/ In order to increase the interest of workers of sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises in an economical attitude toward the expenditure of fuel resources and the use of equipment, bonuses for saving gasoline, diesel fuel and lubricants are set. In letters to the editorial board readers ask for an explanation of certain problems connected with such incentives.
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> The division of agriculture of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems provides the answers.

/Question/ What is the procedure of computation and payment of bonuses for saving fuel resources in agriculture?

/Answer/ First of all, it is necessary to note that the introduction of technically substantiated standards of expenditure of petroleum products at an enterprise is a mandatory condition for such incentives.

A bonus is paid for saving fuel and lubricants as compared to the established norms of expenditure provided the agrotechnical requirements for the quality of tractor operations are observed. Its amount differs. For example, a tractor and machine operator is paid 70 percent of the value of the saved fuel and lubricants and a leader of a tractor-field, tractor or overall brigade, 7 percent, an assistant brigade leader, 3 percent, an adjuster foreman, 5 percent and a fueler, 3 percent of the value of the petroleum products saved in a brigade. The bonus of a mechanic of a sovkhoz department is 3 percent of the value of the fuel and lubricants saved in a department and of a head of a petroleum facility, also 3 percent. Workers at repair shops engaged in the control of fuel equipment are paid 5 percent of the value of the fuel and lubricants saved on the entire farm.

It should be stressed that such a bonus is paid irrespective of other types of bonuses received by workers and in excess of the established maximum amounts. The money for the payment of bonuses for saving fuel and lubricants is assigned to the material incentive fund of a farm or an enterprise and used for a specific purpose--for the payment of bonuses to the workers for whom they are set. These bonuses are taken into account when the average wages of workers are calculated.

/Question/ Who is financially responsible for the overexpenditure of petroleum products and to what extent?

/Answer/ The administration has the right to make deductions from wages for the overexpenditure of fuel and lubricants through the fault of workers. For example, in this case 50 percent of the value of the petroleum products overexpended by tractor and machine operators is deducted from their wages, 10 percent of the value of lubricants overexpended in a brigade, from the wages of a leader of a tractor-field (tractor or overall) brigade, 5 percent, from the wages of an assistant brigade leader and 5 percent, from the wages of a fueler and 5 percent of the fuel and lubricants overexpended in a department, from the wages of a mechanic at a sovkhoz department.

If the overexpenditure of fuel and lubricants occurs not through the fault of workers, within 30 percent it is written off by the farm manager. If the amount of overexpenditure not through the fault of workers, but due to complex conditions of performance of agricultural operations, is more than 30 percent, it is written off by the manager of the superior organization that must control the expenditure of petroleum products. The acts of a commission consisting of a farm manager (commission chairman), a chief specialist (an agronomist or an engineer) and a leader of a tractor-field (tractor or overall) brigade form the basis for such a write-off.

Payments of bonuses for saving fuel and lubricants and deductions from wages for their overexpenditure are made at the expiration of every quarter. If the overexpenditure of petroleum products that occurred during past quarters is made up for fully or partially during next quarters, a recalculation is made and the previously deducted amounts are returned according to the number of petroleum products compensated for.

At the end of the calendar year, depending on the actual saving or overexpenditure of fuel and lubricants, a final recalculation of bonuses for saving petroleum products and of deductions from wages for their overexpenditure is made. When tractor operations are performed with a violation of the established agrotechnical requirements, the administration must deduct 50 percent of the value of the fuel and lubricants expended on the operation performed in an inferior manner from the wages of a tractor and machine operator and 10 percent, from the wages of a leader of a tractor-field (tractor or overall) brigade.

It is recommended that kolkhozes pay bonuses to workers for saving fuel and lubricants, as well as deduct amounts from wages for their overexpenditure, in accordance with the procedure and at the rates established for workers of state agricultural enterprises.

/Question/ How are incentives provided for workers for prolonging the life of agricultural equipment before major repair and write-off?

/Answer/ In order to increase the material interest of tractor and machine operators, engineering and technical personnel and managers of sovkhozes, other state agricultural enterprises and enterprises of the State Committee for Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture in a long use of agricultural equipment, the following procedure and conditions of material incentives for these workers for prolonging the life of tractors and combines before capital repair and write-off are established.

In order to provide incentives for tractor and machine operators for prolonging the life of tractors and combines, an additional payment per norm-shift fulfilled on a tractor or combine depending on the type and life of a machine, beginning from the third year of operation of combines and from the fourth year of operation of tractors, is introduced. For example, in the third year of operation of a combine 50 kopecks per fulfilled norm-shift are additionally paid, in the fourth year, 70 kopecks and in each subsequent year the additional payment is increased by 20 kopecks. If a combine operates for 8 years and longer, the additional payment is 1 ruble 30 kopecks.

In order to provide incentives for brigade leaders and assistant brigade leaders of tractor, tractor-field or overall brigades that have equipment, for chiefs of mechanized detachments and for adjuster foremen for prolonging the life of tractors and combines, an additional wage payment at the rate of up to 15 percent of the sums annually paid to tractor and machine operators of the corresponding brigades and detachments for prolonging the life of tractors and combines is also introduced for them.

Managers, as well as engineering and technical personnel, directly responsible for the operation and repair of tractors and combines also have the right to bonuses for prolonging the life of tractors and combines. An additional payment at the rate of up to 8 percent of the sums annually paid to tractor and machine operators on the entire farm (enterprise) for prolonging the life of tractors and combines is introduced for them.

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